



FIRE-MEDICAL DEPT

Guideline

Date: January 9, 2017 (revised 04/15/2020)

To: Open Flame Users

From: City of Peoria Fire-Medical Department – Fire Prevention Division

Subject: Sky Lanterns or Chinese Lanterns.

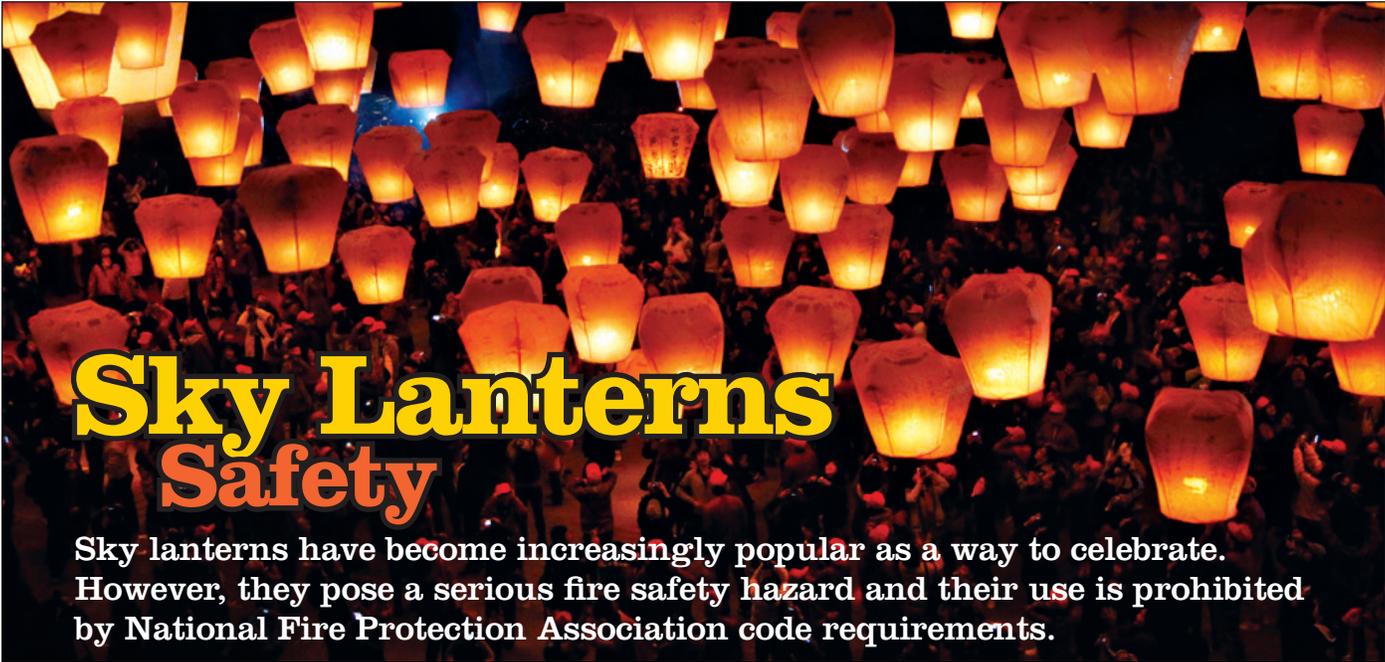
This document will serve to provide guidance with regards to the use of aerial luminaries which are also known as a **sky lantern** or Chinese lantern, which is a small hot air balloon made of paper, with an opening at the bottom where a small fire is suspended.

The use of such an aerial luminary, in any form, is not permitted within the City of Peoria. Section 308.1.2 of the 2018 edition of the *International Fire Code* states “No person shall throw or place, or cause to be thrown or placed, a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, matches, or other flaming or glowing substance or object on any surface or article where it can cause an unwanted fire”.

The City of Peoria Fire-Medical Department, Fire Prevention Division, under Section 104.1 is tasked with enforcing the provisions of the Fire Code which includes rendering interpretations of the Code in the protection of lives and property.

The reasoning for the ban on the use of aerial luminaries is that once the aerial luminary has been released and is airborne, there is no way to control the direction it will head or where it will land. Should the aerial luminary land in an area with dry trees, brush, or other vegetation, an unwanted fire could occur.

There have been several documented fires associated with the use of these items (see NFPA website). Included with this guideline is a document produced by the National Fire Protection Association which helps to detail the hazards of using aerial luminaries.



Sky Lanterns Safety

Sky lanterns have become increasingly popular as a way to celebrate. However, they pose a serious fire safety hazard and their use is prohibited by National Fire Protection Association code requirements.

- » The lanterns are made of oiled rice paper with a bamboo frame, materials that can easily catch on fire.
- » A candle or wax fuel cell is used with the device.
- » The lit flame heats the inside of the lantern, causing it to rise into the air.
- » Once lit and airborne, it can travel over a mile in distance.
- » Wind can affect the sky lantern, blowing the sides, forcing the hot air out and sending the flaming lantern back to the ground.
- » These lanterns have the potential to cause fires.
- » A flaming lantern can drop onto a rooftop, field, trees or power lines before the flame is fully extinguished.
- » A destructive fire can result when a flaming lantern reaches the ground during dry conditions.
- » Sky lanterns should not be used under any circumstances.

Recent fires

A **sky lantern** landed on the canopy of a country club, igniting the canopy.

Two sky lanterns landed in forested land impacting valuable wildfire firefighting resources.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169